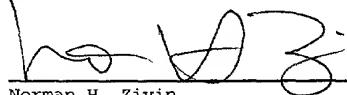


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Colin Hendrick
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Known (Continuation Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/784,851, filed 15 February 2001)
Filed: Herewith
For: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC CONNECTION TO A NETWORK

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service by Express Mail and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

 4/6/01
Norman H. Zivin
Reg. No. 25,385

Date

April 6, 2001
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
(212) 278-0400

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE ACCOMPANYING CONTINUATION
APPLICATION FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box Patent Application

Sir:

Applicant requests that the following amendment be made in the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, delete the first paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/784,851, filed 15 February 2001, which is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US00/04250, filed 18 February 2000, designating the United States of America, which claims priority of Australian Application No. AU 17394/99 (PP9281), filed 18 February 1999, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference into the present application.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-29, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 30-50 as follows:

--30. (New) A computer system for allowing a user to complete a secure transaction over a network, comprising:
a data card which contains information specific to the user, including authentication information and personal information;
a data card reader adapted to access at least part of the information contained on the data card when the data card is in communication therewith;
a data processor in communication with the data card reader and adapted to be connected to the network; and
an application program resident on the data processor, the

application program being configured to automatically prompt the user to enter the authentication information for comparison with the authentication information stored on the data card, in order to authorize the user following a match thereof to complete the secure transaction over the network using the information specific to the user.

--31. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 30, wherein upon initial use of said data card, the user is prompted to initiate said data card by inputting the authentication information and the personal information into said data processor for storage on said data card.

--32. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 31, wherein the user is prompted upon the initial use to input the authentication information and the personal information into a series of information fields.

--33. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 31, wherein the personal information is encrypted before storage on said data card.

--34. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 30, wherein the personal information includes at least one of user name information, user address information, user gender information, user age information, user government identification information, user credit card information, and user income information.

--35. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 30, wherein a specific web site is triggered upon insertion of the data card into the data card reader.

--36. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 30, wherein said data card comprises:

a microprocessor for processing the information contained on the data card;

a memory for enabling the information to be stored within the data card; and

a communications interface for transferring the information from the data card to the data card reader.

--37. (New) The computer system as set forth in claim 30, wherein said data processor is housed within said data card reader.

--38. (New) A method for allowing a user to complete a secure transaction over a computer network, comprising the steps of:

storing information specific to the user on a data card, including personal information and authentication information;

configuring an application program resident on a data processor to automatically prompt the user to enter the authentication information for comparison with the authentication information stored on the data card, in order to authorize the user following a match thereof to complete a secure transaction over the network using the information specific to the user.

--39. (New) The method as set forth in claim 38, further

comprising the step of prompting the user, upon initial use of said data card, to initiate said data card by inputting the authentication information and the personal information into said data processor for storage on said data card.

--40. (New) The method set forth in claim 39, further comprising the step of providing a series of information fields to the user for inputting the authentication information and the personal information.

--41. (New) The method as set forth in claim 39, further comprising the step of encrypting the personal information before storage on said data card.

--42. (New) The method as set forth in claim 38, wherein the personal information includes at least one of user name information, user address information, user gender information, user age information, user government identification information, user credit card information, and user income information.

--43. (New) The method as set forth in claim 38, further comprising the step of triggering a specific web site upon insertion of the data card into the data card reader.

--44. (New) A method for virtual form completion over a computer network for completing a business transaction, comprising the steps of:

storing information specific to a user on a data card;

connecting to said network;
automatically uploading said information stored on said data card to a virtual form contained on said network upon connection thereto;
carrying out the business transaction based on the information uploaded to the virtual form; and
updating the information contained on the data card to reflect the business transaction.

--45. (New) The method as set forth in claim 44, further comprising the step of triggering a specific web site upon connecting to the network.

--46. (New) The method as set forth in claim 44, further comprising the step of prompting the user, upon initial use of said data card, to initiate said data card by inputting the information into a data processor for storage on said data card.

--47. (New) The method set forth in claim 46, further comprising the step of providing a series of information fields to the user for inputting the information upon the initial use.

--48. (New) The method as set forth in claim 46, further comprising the step of encrypting the information before storage on said data card.

--49. (New) The method as set forth in claim 44, wherein the information includes at least one of user name information, user

address information, user gender information, user age information, user government identification information, user credit card information, and user income information.

--50. (New) The method as set forth in claim 44, wherein the information includes authentication information, and further comprising the step of verifying the authentication information upon connection to the network by prompting the user to enter the authentication information for comparison with the authentication information stored on the data card before proceeding to the automatic uploading step.--

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/784,851, filed 15 February 2001, which is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US00/04250, filed 18 February 2000, designating the United States of America, which claims priority of Australian Application No. AU 17394/99 (PP9281), filed 18 February 1999. Applicant is not abandoning U.S. Serial No. 09/784,851.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data.

Claims 1-29 were pending in the subject application. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-29, without prejudice or disclaimer, and has added new claims 30-50.

2310-61124-A

Accordingly, upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 30-50 will be pending and under examination.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided below.

No fee other than the filing fee of \$355.00 is deemed necessary in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any other fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman H. Zivin
Reg. No. 25,385
Attorney for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 278-0400

NHZ/RAD:rp